

## **REMARKS**

### **I. Introduction**

With the cancellation herein of claims 1 to 3, 5 to 7, 10 to 23 and 26 to 79 without prejudice to the prosecution of this subject matter in separate applications, claims 4, 8, 9, 24 and 25 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable and in condition for immediate allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

### **II. Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter contained in claims 4, 8, 9, 24 and 25. The Examiner objected to these claims as dependent on a rejected base claim, and indicated that these claims were allowable if rewritten in independent format. In this regard, the Examiner will note that claims previously 4, 8 and 24 were rewritten in independent form in Applicant's Amendment filed in response to the Office Action dated June 6, 2006. As such, none of the pending claims depend from a rejected base claim. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 4, 8 and 24 are all presently in condition for immediate allowance. Claim 9 depends from claim 8 and is therefore also in condition for immediate allowance. Claim 25 depends from claim 24 and is therefore also in condition for immediate allowance.

### **III. Rejection of Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 7, 10 to 23 and 26 to 36 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 7, 10 to 23 and 26 to 36 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,599,290 ("Bailey et al.") and U.S. Patent No. 6,152,927 ("Farris et al."). While Applicants disagree with the merits of this rejection, to facilitate early issuance of allowed claims 4, 8, 9, 24 and 25, claims 1 to 3, 5 to 7, 10 to 23 and 26 to 36 have been canceled herein without prejudice to the prosecution of this subject matter in separate applications. The present rejections are therefore inapposite. Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

**IV. Conclusion**

It is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable in condition for allowance. Prompt issuance of this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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